1/29/72

dear ed,

you are in low spirits (your 1/27). you are saying close to what eceryone said to me through all of 1965 and half of 1966, and it was true then. the impossible takes a bit longer. it not only can be, it must be. and it will be!

i hope the move to canada turns out as you hope. glad to have you here. but i must leave on the 7th and expect to return the night of the 8th. please also be prepared for more than the usuak choas, for this is the one time of the year we have any income, slight as it is. my wife is a Block tax consultant and has no time for housework.

everything you say of sylvia as a person and of her mind is correct. however, her advice is as error-prone as anyone's. if you doubt, i will show you where she argued with me in early 1969 that no good book on this subject would have trouble finding a publisher. our tragedy is that she had no choice but to drop out. this means she is, including with the advice she gives, locked into tha past. how we could use her great mind and enormous talents! the more so since there are now so very,very few, of whom you can count all doing any kind of real work on the fingers of a single hand.

i wrote all the critics well in advance of the lattimer ploy, for i had anticipated it a year ago and attempted to enlist help that would and could have come as close as we ever have to breaking this thing open. no responses of any kind a year ago and none of any value in the very few which did come as a result of my september alert. all were hung up on the past. and you are the first to agree with me that lattimer was their bad mistake. others, save possibly jerry and howard:silence. there is more in the works. i do not know how much i have been able to influence it. the lattimer thing provided us with great possibilities, but those with the means required for its exploitation either did not see it, would not discuss or consider it, or just did not care. however, you have not thought this through. to evaluate it as an error, you have to know their purposes. i can conceive those which make it a success, tho a p.r. fiasco. and some of us, the more dedicated and the more blind (and as i increasingly suspect, the more ambitious or selfish) may yet salvage them. if it happens, and if it does it will despite my warnings, i will drop everything and do what i started in 1968 as A CITIZEN'S DESCENT, now retitled THE MARDI GRAS SOLUTION TO THE JFK PLOT. it can be a commercially-acceptable book and it would be designed as a purgative. we need one, and the younger ones are entitled to it.

sahl, as i have told you and have feared since i met him and did a 3-hour show with him in late 1967, is as sick as he can be vrilliant. arrogance is an inadequate characterization. evil is also an inadequate description of gervais. in his special kind of crookedness and at survival he is brilliant.

i think you are correct in timing the new cia offensive to green beret case, but it had to have been cooking earlier. such geniuses as salandria and garrison went for that good-guy stuff fast, as i tried to warn jim and others. it is to say the head is good and the body evil. however, the omissions from the pentagon papers need not be sinister, except as related to the media, for i would not have expected the papers tha coulg be used vs. the cia to be out of its possession. at that, a careful reading of the bantam edition shows them not "good" but intent upon success and no better than able to recognize failure only long after is was apparent.

re: walton and the hint of foul play with adlai: did you notice the change in severied that coincided with this?he was with stevenson whenhe died.

fromwhat is now known of be guessed, your hunch on frank makes more sense than anything else. I have already raised this question with bud, who was to have come here tomorrow to discuss this and other matters and now can't. I gave him a memo on what we should do as soon as you told me of the book-club arrangements, a real tipoff. you are right in suggesying official help, for he blurted out to me a) that he had the king autopsy photos and b) not from canale...disagree on the use that could be made of PM. certainty, no;possibility, yes. timing right this minute:superb. prospects:zero. you don't know what it says and has and proves, inc. on Hoover and the military. best and thanks for clips,